

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been renumbered as specified in the Office Action. Claim 41 (original claim 41) has been cancelled.

All of the above-recited amendments to the claims are supported by the specification as filed. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite features formerly found in claim 12 and to clarify that each of the multiple light beam arrays has a different intensity. See, e.g., Specification at paragraph 31. Claim 23 has been amended to clarify that binary modulation is used. See, e.g., Specification at paragraph 33. No new matter has been added.

Paragraph 4 of the Specification has been amended as requested in the Office Action.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Paufler et al., U.S. Patent 5,936,713. Although Paufler describes a system for producing features on a photolithographic layer, that system does not include multiple light beam arrays each having a different intensity as claimed in claim 1. Instead, it is apparent that the light beam arrays produced by the beam splitting cube 310 in the Paufler system are of equal intensities. Hence, claim 1 and all of its dependent claims are patentable over Paufler.

Claim 1 is also patentable over Gross, U.S. Patent 6,765,934. The Gross system for recording an image on a photosensitive surface fails to employ reflective spatial modulators as recited in claim 1. Instead, the modulators used by Gross are those described in U.S. Patent 5,309,178. See Gross at col. 9, ll. 1-3. These are acoustic modulators, not reflective spatial modulators. Hence, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Gross.

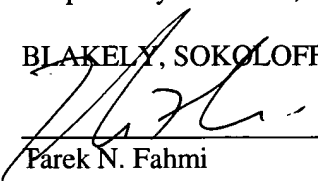
Likewise claim 23 and its dependent claims are patentable over Gross. Claim 23 specifically recites a binary modulated light beam array. Such a light beam array is not disclosed by Gross. Hence, claims 23 and its dependent claims are patentable over this reference.

If there are any additional fees associated with this communication, please charge
Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: July 7, 2005



Parek N. Fahmi
Reg. No. 41,402

Applied Materials, Inc.
Patent Counsel
P.O. Box 450A
Santa Clara, CA 95052
(408) 947.8200